

Public Draft

Program EIR for Small Erosion Repair Program



SCH#2009112088

Prepared for:



AECOM

March 2013

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

DIVISION OF FLOOD MANAGEMENT

P.O. BOX 219000

SACRAMENTO, CA 95821-9000



March 19, 2013

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY: Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the Department of Water Resources Small Erosion Repair Program

Dear Interested Parties:

Enclosed for your review is the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (DPEIR) for the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Small Erosion Repair Program (SERP). The document has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines.

DWR is proposing to implement SERP, a streamlined regulatory review and authorization process that would facilitate implementation of annual repairs of small erosion sites on levees within the Sacramento River Flood Control Project (SRFCP) area. SERP would use programmatic authorizations, issued by federal and state agencies with regulatory obligations associated with erosion repair projects, to streamline the process for implementing small erosion repairs in accordance with conservation-based design and monitoring standards. Projects that qualify under SERP would be eligible to receive authorization within a shortened time frame because they would be designed to minimize effects on fish and wildlife resources, including listed species, and to protect and enhance the existing aquatic and riparian habitats comprising the riverine corridor.

For the initial 5-year (Phase 1) SERP effort that is covered under this DPEIR, the coverage area would be a subset of SRFCP, representing approximately 300 miles of levees maintained by DWR in Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Placer, Sacramento, Solano, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba counties. The following waterways would be eligible for inclusion in Phase 1:

- Butte Creek
- Cache Creek from the Yolo Bypass to the upstream limit of the SRFCP levees
- Cherokee Canal
- Colusa Bypass
- Northern portion of Colusa Main Drain
- Portions of Feather River
- Putah Creek
- Sacramento Bypass
- Portions of Sacramento River
- Sutter Bypass Tisdale Bypass
- Wadsworth Canal
- Willow Slough Bypass
- Portions of Yolo Bypass
- East and West Interceptor Canals

Implementation of SERP would begin with DWR's, Flood Maintenance Office staff conducting annual maintenance surveys each spring to identify small erosion sites that need repairs within the Phase 1 SERP coverage area. A maximum of 15 individual repair projects would be implemented annually under SERP during Phase 1 of the program. Potential SERP repair sites would be categorized into two tiers based on the size of the project disturbance area (0.1 acre

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or less with a maximum linear foot limit of 264 feet, or 0.5 acre or less with a maximum linear foot limit of 1,000 feet). For each proposed site, DWR would select as a guide, one of seven SERP design templates created by the collaborating agencies and identified in the SERP Manual to apply to the site. DWR would notify the applicable permitting agencies—U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)—of the proposed small erosion repair projects each spring. Upon receiving agency verification of SERP authorization, DWR would proceed with the repairs in accordance with the applicable conservation measures in the SERP Manual and any additional terms or conditions for approval that the agencies may require.

Construction activities would take place at individual sites throughout each summer and fall during the 5-year Phase 1 period. Each site would require no more than 1–4 weeks of active construction. The program design templates have been developed with the intent that once repaired the erosion sites would require little or no additional upkeep or maintenance. Phase 1 of SERP has independent utility from potential future SERP phases.

Conservation measures in the SERP Manual, developed in coordination with the permitting agencies, would be applicable to all SERP project sites. These measures include timing restrictions to avoid work during important times for various special-status species, measures to avoid vegetation and habitat disturbance, hazard prevention measures, erosion control measures, and other mandatory construction measures.

Because sites with hazardous materials contamination would not be eligible for inclusion in the SERP, no known hazardous materials contamination sites would be affected.

In addition to the proposed project, the DPEIR evaluates three alternatives: (1) No-Project Alternative; (2) Large-Scale Erosion Repair Program Alternative; and (3) Native Soil Disturbance Minimization Alternative.

The DPEIR identifies impacts of the proposed project in the following areas that would be *potentially significant* or *significant* before mitigation: air quality and climate change, cultural resources, and noise. Mitigation included in the DPEIR would reduce all *potentially significant* or *significant* impacts to a less than significant level. No significant and unavoidable impacts of the proposed project are identified.

The DPEIR is being circulated for public review and comment for a period of 45 days, starting on Wednesday, March 20, 2013 and ending on Friday, May 3, 2013. Written comments must be submitted no later than close of business on Friday, May 3, 2013, to:

Mr. Jeff Schuette, Senior Environmental Scientist
Maintenance Environmental Support Branch
Division of Flood Management
Department of Water Resources
3310 El Camino Ave, Suite 140
Sacramento, CA 95821
Fax: (916) 574-0331

Comments may also be provided via e-mail to Jeff Schuette at jeff.schuette@ca.water.gov. If comments are provided via e-mail, please include the project title in the subject line, attach

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comments in Microsoft Word format, and include the commenter's U.S. Postal Service mailing address.

To simplify the distribution process, copies of the DPEIR are being distributed in electronic format and accompanied by paper copies of the executive summary. If you are a reviewer/recipient who received the bulk of the DPEIR in electronic format and you require a paper copy, please contact Danielle Ingrassia at (916) 574-0383 or danielle.ingrassia@water.ca.gov.

Copies of the DPEIR and electronic copies of the reference documents may also be reviewed during normal business hours at the following locations:

Department of Water Resources
Division of Flood Management
3310 El Camino Ave, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95821

Sutter County Free Library
750 Forbes Avenue
Yuba City, CA 95991

Sacramento Public Library, Central Library
828 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Rio Vista Library
44 South Second Street
Rio Vista, CA 94571

Chico Branch Library
1108 Sherman Avenue
Chico, CA 95926

The DPEIR is also available for review online at
<http://www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/fmo/msb/smallerosionrepairs.cfm>.

DWR also invites you to attend a public meeting on the DPEIR, which has been scheduled for Friday, April 19, 2013. Meeting attendees may provide comments on the DPEIR for the proposed project:

Public Meeting
Friday, April 19, 2013
3:00 p.m.
The Resources Building, Auditorium 1st floor
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Note: The Resources Building is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals needing special services will be accommodated to the best of our ability. For more information, please contact Danielle Ingrassia at (916) 574-0383 at least 48 hours before the meeting.

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SCH#2009112088

Prepared for:

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